

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 09379 270411Z

64

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02

ACDA-07 TRSE-00 IO-13 AID-05 /083 W

----- 019807

P R 270343Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0715

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 9379

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJ: PRESIDENT PAK BRIEFS BLUE HOUSE PRESS CORPS ON U.S.

ELECTION AND ALLEGED BRIBERY SCANDAL

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN POST-ELECTION BRIEFING FOR BLUE HOUSE PRESS CORPS, PRESIDENT PAK SAID THAT LINKING OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE BY U.S. WITH U.S. TROOP COMMITMENT IS "UNACCEPTABLE." HE SAID ROKG COULD GO-IT-ALONE IF NECESSARY, A RESPONSE NOW BEING ECHOED BY SOME ROK MILITARY. PRESIDENT DENIED THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY INVOLVED WITH BRIBERY FIGURES, CHARACTERIZING BRIBERY ALLEGATIONS AS MISUNDERSTANDING OF EASTERN-STYLE HOSPITALITY. MOST OBSERVERS IN SEOUL NOW REPORT AND REFLECT ROKG VIEW THAT SCANDALS WILL BLOW OVER EVENTUALLY. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS SOURCES WHEN QUESTIONED AT BLUE HOUSE PRESS BRIEFING NOVEMBER 5 OR 6 ON WHAT EFFECT CARTER ELECTION WOULD HAVE ON KOREAN DEFENSE POLICIES, PRESIDENT PAK BECAME "UNUSUALLY SERIOUS". DURING BACKGROUND SESSION, DETAILS OF WHICH HAVE BEEN SLOW COMING OUT, PAK SAID THAT "IT WOULD NOT BE ACCEPTABLE" IF QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WERE LINKED BY NEW ADMINISTRATION TO AMERICAN TROOP PRESENCE IN SOUTH KOREA. HIS STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS WAS VERY FIRM, ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY INFLEXIBLE. IF MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS JOINED IN OVERT DEMONSTRATION, FOR EXAMPLE, HE MIGHT TAKE HARDER LINE. SOURCE TOLD

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 09379 270411Z

TIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, HE MIGHT TAKE HARDER LINE. SOURCE TOLD

EMBOFF PRESIDENT IMPLIED HE WOULD BECOME MORE "INFLEXIBLE" IF AMERICAN GOVERNMENT CHOSE TO "INTERFERE" IN KOREAN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS. HIS VIEWS ON SUBJECT WERE "CORRECT" AND HE WAS DETERMINED TO REMAIN "MASTER OF HIS OWN HOUSE."

2. BY END OF NEXT FIVE YEARS, PAK SAID, HE HOPED COUNTRY WOULD BE ABLE TO FUNCTION CAPABLY WITHOUT PRESENCE OF AMERICAN GROUND TROOPS, AND IN PARTICULAR SECOND DIVISION. HE NOTED AMERICAN AID HAD BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED IN PAST FEW YEARS AND WAS NO LONGER ALL THAT SIGNIFICANT. USIS SOURCE REPORTED THAT PRESIDENT ALSO OBSERVED THAT IF AMERICANS WISHED TO WITHDRAW THEIR TROOPS TO PROMOTE "LIBERALIZATION" OF PAK GOVERNMENT, IT WAS ALL RIGHT WITH HIM. KOREANS WOULD NOT "WEEP AND WAIL AND CLUTCH AT THEIR LEGS" AS U.S. TROOPS DEPARTED.

3. FORMER AIDE TO CHONG IL-KWON TOLD POLCOUNS THAT HE DETECTED IN ARMY ITSELF A TENDENCY TO SUBSCRIBE TO THE HARD, "WE-CAN-GO-IT-ALONE" LINE. MILITARY COMMANDERS HAVE BEEN TELLING UNITS THAT CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN U.S. WILL BLOW OVER AND WILL NOT BASICALLY CHANGE U.S. COMMITMENT, BUT SOME ROK OFFICERS TENDED TO TAKE SOMEWHAT EMOTIONAL POSITION THAT ROK CAN GET ALONG WITHOUT U.S. IF NECESSARY. CERTAINLY, SOURCE CONCEDED, IF CHOICE EVER AROSE BETWEEN LOYALTY TO PRESIDENT AND CONTINUANCE OF CLOSE U.S. SUPPORT, IT COULD PRECIPITATE "REAL CRISIS."

4. DURING PRESIDENT'S BRIEFING, AS WELL AS DURING EARLIER GENERAL BLUE HOUSE BRIEFINGS, PRESS SOURCE INDICATED ROK LINE WAS TWOFOLD. (1) PRESIDENT BELIEVED THAT MUCH OF WHAT WAS ALLEGED TO BE BRIBERY WAS ONLY "EASTERN HOSPITALITY" AND (2) THAT PRESIDENT HIMSELF WAS NOT IN ANYWAY INVOLVED. USIS SOURCE SAID PRESIDENT STATED CATEGORICALLY THAT HE HAD NEVER MET PAK TONG-SON AT BLUE HOUSE AND ONLY REMEMBERED MEETING HIM ONCE IN WASHINGTON WITH DELEGATION OF KOREAN STUDENTS WHO WERE STUDYING THERE. PRESIDENT DENIED PAK PO-HI TOOK PART IN ANY BLUE HOUSE MEETING NOR THAT BLUE HOUSE HAD EVER BEEN SUBJECTED TO ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE.
SNEIDER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, TROOP DEPLOYMENT, BRIBERY, ALLEGATIONS, MILITARY PLANS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL09379
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760440-0403
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976119/aaaaahus.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <27 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT PAK BRIEFS BLUE HOUSE PRESS CORPS ON U.S. ELECTION AND ALLEGED BRIBERY SCANDAL BEGIN SUMMARY: IN POST-ELECTION BRIEFING FOR BLUE
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, MARR, MPOL, KS, US, (PARK, CHONG-HUI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006